

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated December 6, 2005. The claim amendments included herein are merely clarifying amendments and are not meant to change the intended scope of the claims. Thus, the amendments present the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal, and they should be entered in due course. Moreover, the amendments are manifest, requiring only a cursory review by the Examiner, thereby providing additional ground for their entry.

Claims 1-46 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 1-46 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 12, 16, 21, 23-25, 35, 44 and 46 have been amended. Claims 1-46 thus remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 1-46 are in condition for allowance and requests withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

§103 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 12, 13, 21, 23, 25-29, 31, 35-39, 41, 44 and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ginter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,253,193) in view of Ober et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,307,936):

Claims 3, 14, 30 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ginter, in view of Ober, and in view of Sprunk et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,754,569).

Claims 4, 5, 15, 32-34, 42 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ginter, in view of Ober, and in view of Richards et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,069,957).

Claims 6-8, 10, 11, 16-18, 20, 22, 24 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over

Ginter, in view of Ober, and in view of Ruben et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,138,237).

Claims 9 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ginter, in view of Ruben, and in view of Sprunk.

Applicant submits that the independent claims (claims 1, 6, 12, 16, 21, 23-25, 35, 44 and 46) are patentable over Ginter, Ober, Sprunk, Richards and Ruben.

Applicant's invention as recited in the independent claims is directed toward playing back encrypted content from a recording medium, recording encrypted content to a recording medium, and a medium storing encrypted content. Each of the claims recites that the medium is operable with a device or computer system (collectively referred to hereinafter as a "device"), that the device corresponds to a leaf of a key-tree structure, and that the key-tree structure "include[es] a plurality of nodes and a plurality of leaves, said plurality of nodes including a root node, and each of said nodes and each of said leaves corresponding to a respective encryption key." Each of the claims further recites that "decryption by [the device] of said encrypted content is selectively inhibited by changing all keys corresponding to nodes between [the device] and said root node to generate a plurality of changed keys, said changed keys being propagated through said key-tree structure by encrypting each changed key according to a lower-level changed key and encrypting the lowest-level changed key according to a leaf key other than [the device's] leaf key." Supporting disclosure for Applicant's scheme for selectively inhibiting decryption can be found in the specification at, for example, paragraphs [0166]-[0179] and [0229]-[0297].

Since neither Ginter, Ober, Sprunk, Richards nor Ruben discloses Applicant's scheme for selectively inhibiting

decryption, Applicant believes that claims 1, 6, 12, 16, 21, 23-25, 35, 44 and 46 are patentable over Ginter, Ober, Sprunk, Richards and Ruben - taken either alone or in combination - on at least this basis.

Further, since dependent claims inherit the limitations of their respective base claims, Applicant believes that dependent claims 2-5, 7-11, 13-15, 17-20, 22, 26-34, 36-43 and 45 are patentable over Ginter, Ober, Sprunk, Richards and Ruben for at least the same reasons as discussed in connection with the independent claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to telephone the undersigned at (908) 654-5000.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

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Respectfully submitted,

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